

§ 1160.21 Definitions.

(a) *Strategic Partnerships.* *Strategic Partnerships* are multi-industry teams of firms and others formed to create and commercialize proprietary technologies, especially large scale enabling technologies, using a systems management approach. The design of and participants in a specific partnership will be solely at the discretion of the private sector. However, since these partnerships will be most effective when comprised of firms which can share proprietary information, it will probably be most useful if there are no competitors in the venture.

(b) *Large Scale Enabling Technologies.* *Large Scale Enabling Technologies* are technologies that are too complex and costly for a single firm to create and that have more potential applications than a single firm or a single industry can readily exploit. In some cases investments in these technologies may only be recouped if the results are used in several applications, often in different industries. Since speed of recoupment is often critical to continued competitiveness, it is often essential that multiple major applications are introduced simultaneously.

[56 FR 41282, Aug. 20, 1991; 56 FR 51257, Oct. 10, 1991]

§ 1160.22 Goal of the Strategic Partnership initiative.

(a) This new initiative is designed to provide the private sector with the opportunity to discuss the possible benefits of forming Strategic Partnerships among firms representing the entire food chain of specific technologies. By focusing on a specific technology, these partnerships will have the capability to integrate the innovation activities for a broad range of applications made possible by that technology. The integrative function differentiates this initiative from earlier Department of Commerce initiatives which deal with only one stage of the commercial process. Strategic Partnerships differ from traditional cooperative R&D consortia which are composed primarily of competitors who cooperate only in the early precompetitive stage of innovation. In contrast, Strategic Partnerships are made up generally of non-

competing companies (see § 1160.21(a)) and are capable of accomplishing the entire process of innovation working on a proprietary basis.

(b) The immediate goal of this initiative is to hold workshops upon a request from the private sector in key technologies at which the stakeholder industries in the food chain for each technology will have a chance to consider potential applications of the technology, current status of the technology, what R&D needs to be performed, the competitive position of U.S. industry in that technology, including the status of foreign competition, and the ways in which U.S. stakeholders might organize themselves to maximize commercial benefits. The ultimate outcome of such workshops will be entirely at the discretion of the private sector and may include the formation of one or more Strategic Partnerships, other types of multifirm ventures, or no action at all. The Department will not undertake to form specific partnerships. This will be solely at the discretion of the participants.

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§ 1160.23 Assistance in establishing Strategic Partnerships.

(a) General. The Department has no funds available for direct financial support for the establishment or operation of a Strategic Partnership.

(b) Information Briefings. The Department plans to hold an initial briefing to acquaint the private sector with the dynamics of the systems approach used in Strategic Partnerships, including how they may offer a means for firms to collaborate primarily in large scale enabling technologies. Additional information and technical assistance may be obtained from the Director, Office of Technology Policy Analyses and Studies, Technology Administration, room 4835, Herbert C. Hoover Building, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230 (202) 377-1518.

(c) Workshops. Upon request the Department may hold workshops to explore interest in Strategic Partnerships for a specific technology. Working with the requester, Commerce will determine which industries have a stake in the technology, invite the